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Letters of Wm. Fitzhugh.

(CONTINUED.)

July 4th, 1687.

Honrd Sir:*

I just now received yours by your boy wherein you mention you were pleased to hasten his Dispatch, for the sudden Intelligence of the doutfull Inroads of the Seneca Indians into our Country in their Return with their spoils from James River together with your directions to give notice to the Inhabitants to be upon their Guards, which order I shall readily obey & I dare say the whole county will thank your Honour for your early and timely advice and will accordingly pursue the Same, but what measures to take if they be upon us further than Self preservation dictates & directs I know not there being one Militia officer in commission in the whole county & consequently people best spared cannot be commanded into service and appointed to guard the remotest most suspected and dangerous places. I intend this day up to Capt. Brents & with him shall consult what courses to take in this present exigence and accordingly pursue the same. As your Honour has been thus early in your first notice of the sudden and probable doubts of their Incursions, so I am well assured upon farther Intimation of the approaching dangers you will be pleased to give us sudden Knowledge but assist us with your full advice, directions and authority in what lawfull posture we must stand in Defence, & if occasion be, opposition to their ravenous spoils and barbarous Inhumanity. In the mean time I shall take the best care I can not only to give general notice but endeavour the best security for the safety of the people in their lives and estates.

Your Honours most &c.

Wff.

To the Hon^{ble} Nich^s Spencer Esq.

* This letter seems to indicate that William Fitzhugh was then in command of the militia of Stafford county. Land grants to him at this time always style him Lieutenant-Colonel William Fitzhugh.

August 10th, 1687.

Dear Brother:

The welcome news of all your healths, I received by Jno. Simpson, which I heartily congratulate & wish therein continuance, and rejoyce again with you not only in your wishes but kind salute, with the presentation of our humble service to your self and good lady. John Simpson & myself went down to see the steers in Mr. Ashton's pasture, but they could not be got in, seventeen of them, there is full assurance that they are there, having been five times seen and reckoned since your being here, one I last year killed, but then did not remember that one that was wanting when you were here cannot yet be found, when it can it is at your service, to take or leave, so that there is at present Seventeen to be charged at 600 p head. Twenty sheep he will bring up with him, what measures we took in delivering the second Jno. Simpson will give you a particular account of, which are to be charged at 160 p. head; there needs no farther or other writing as I know of in that affair. I have also sent Mr. Cannon's book & thank your kindness in the loan thereof to whom please give my humble service. I heartily thank your mindfull care and your Lady's great kindness in those welcome glasses which came well and safe to hand. I neither have seen nor heard of Mr. Greenhalgh and if it be his ship that is come up, conclude you will have the first opportunity of discoursing affairs we last treated of, in which as in all other mutual concerns shall be willing & gladly referred to your most Judicious conduct.

Dear Sir

Your Wff.

To Capt. George Brent at Woodstock.

August 18th, 1687.

Mr. Nicholas Hayward:

Sir, This comes only for cover of John Busford's bill of Exchange for £20, and letter of advice about the same, the money became due for Tob^o I paid for him here, to keep him out of trouble, & he gives me the full assurance that it will be punctually paid, which if so, please to receive it for me and keep it in your hands till I shall farther order therein, but if it should be

protested and you cannot give me timely notice before his departure from hence I must then request your favour of prosecuting the protest against him there for he intends from hence by the first ships. We are now in daily expectation of hearing from thence, of all your healths & welfare which is particularly wish'd your self by

Sir Your Wff.

To Mr. Nichs. Hayward &c.

January 18th, 1687-8.

Honrd Sir:

I heartily thank your kind opinion and free and full advice by Jno. Newton which agrees with mine from Mr. Jno. Cooper in the lowness of Tob^o & in expectancy of its rise. As to Hill, Perry & Randolph, I have had an opportunity about five days since of sending an Intelligent person to feel the pulse of their Trade. I know you are too well practised in the Topicks of Honour and generosity to render advice other than fair and candid & as you are not Yorkshire enough to set the course of your advice by the compass of your Interest. Sir I shall always endeavour to manage those parts that God Almighty have given me the use of, that the Devil may not have the application and to be sure to keep honesty & integrity at the helm when I launch out into any manner of concerns and not with North County men thrust them under hatches. As you were pleased at first, to offer me your advice & Intelligence I now beg the continuance which will farther add to the obligations of

Worthy Sir, Your Wff.

To the Honble Coll^o Richard Lee.

January 18th, 1687-7.

Honoured Sir:

Yesterday I received your letter about Mr. Storke and Mrs. Meeses claims from Maj^r Ashtons Estate* which claims we that

* There is recorded in Stafford county a deed, dated January 12th, 1705, from John Foster, of Wishback *als* Woodbridge, in the Isle of Ely, county of Cambridge, England, to Elisha James, of the City of Bristol, mariner, conveying, for a consideration of £135 sterling, a plan-

are Executors here have long expected especially Mr. Storke's, for Mr. Ashton in his life time acquainted me that he was largely indebted to Mr. Storke but did not mention Mrs. Meese. Since the receipt of your letter, I also have overlook'd all the letters and acco^s between him & Mr. Storke and the last letter & acco' betwixt and Mrs. Meese by which said last mentioned letters and accots I find him indebted to Mrs. Meese for Balance £22. 7. 7. which said debt Mr. Storke by his letter promises payment of, if Mr. Ashton desire, by letter dated 15 Dec^r 1682 in answer to which Mr. Ashton does desire payment by him to be made by letter dated May 17th following; £20 part thereof was formerly paid by Meese for which Mr. Ashton was to have a receipt from his Sister which receipt could not be found as p. Mr. Storke's 19 January 1685, these are all the papers or letters relating to this whole matter as I can find which said letters & papers I have also sent for your view therefore can object nothing upon the whole matter against their Intercourse of letters that Mrs. Meese's ballance should be included in Mr. Storke's debt but upon farther consideration viewing Mr. Storke's accot (which I also send herewith) I cannot find Mr. Ashton's debited for any such article and therefore conclude that the receipt for the £20 suspended the payment and so consequently the ballances may still be due to Mrs. Meese. Sir considering the trust reposed in us by the deceased in behalf of his friends in England to manage the charge imposed on us, with all diligence & honesty, also well weighing our duty as executors, in the first place to discharge all claims & dues according to law and justice and believing upon consideration of these papers & accots that those debts are justly due yet cannot legally be paid (according to the method and courses of proceedings in this country) without judgm't first had & obtained for the same and being also as equally unwilling to retard the knowledge as to shave off the payment of all just dues, in an-

tation of 550 acres in Stafford county, commonly called Chatterton, which was devised by Peter Ashton to James Ashton, of Virginia, and by him devised to the said John Foster; and also a statement that Mr. John Ashton, a co-legatee of Chatterton, had renounced his claim.

There is also a power of attorney from John Foster to Elisha James, of Bristol, mariner, and Charles James, of the county of Dorset [*sic*], in Virginia, gentleman.

swer to your's have sent this messenger on purpose, with this & the papers inclosed, to assure you that we shall be ready to make punctual payments in Tob° according to law for the said debts so soon as judgment is obtained for the same (and if your Honour enters the actions in your name as the Attorney) shall take no juris, no punctilios, no exceptions to the letters of Attorney, entry of Actions or Declarations, or any other matter, but shall hold ourselves clearly to the justice and merits of the cause & accordingly submit to such judgment as the court shall give, immediately upon its first call at our next court, which is this day three weeks viz february 8th. And lest that time should seem too long to stay without Tob° in this busie time of Dispatch I will immediately lodge 12830 lb Tob° in your Honour's hands which comes to both their debts at 10 shilling p cent according to law which your receiver may come forthwith up and receive or this bearer would gladly obey your commands & gladly receive it who has honestly acquitted himself in that affair to me both in the time of his service and now since his freedom. The Tob° I shall order by Capt. Brent whose letter I have also enclosed sent you, that you may see his intentions, both for the goodness and convenience of payment.

This claim goes near the whole appraisement therefore expedition is necessary for fear of others or future claims. If you know Sir of any other or surer way wherein we may be serviceable to you & you oblige your friends, keeping the integrity of your trust, the Duty of our places, and the security of ourselves, we should be all ready to obey your just commands in particular.

Sir your Hon^r &

Wff.

To the Hon^{ble} Nich^s Spencer Esq. &c. &c.

February 16th, 1687-8,

Honrd Sir:

Herewith comes the Examination about the late Indian murder taken according to my Lord's & your Directions, with the assistance of the rest of the Justices and in the full view & hearing of the whole county together with Capt. Brents particular sentiments and Judicious contrivance for a full and plenary satisfaction to all Interests & pretences in so dark and obscure a

matter which appears in probability a surer way for quieting their jealousies and appeasing their future revenge (it being to be acted according to their Laws) and concurrent with their knowledge and understanding than a legall and (according to the best evidence to be gotten) ineffectual tryal. We have also sent to his Excellency, as your Honour will likewise see, an account of the number of our Free holders and Inhabitants, capable of maintaining a Standing Militia of Horse and foot in our county as we conceive pursuant to the Honourable Boards order conceiving that a full number with a soldier like appearance is far more suitable & commendable than a far greater number presenting themselves in the field with clubs and staves, rather like a rabble rout than a well disciplined Militia. We humbly beg your Honours favour in aiding our defects where you perceive the Deficiency and in the true representation of our (which is a Standing Militia) to his Excellency. We have also promised his Lordship an industrious care for the providing Drums, Trumpets, colours & other Military ornaments but promise an effectual performance because of the hazard of the voyage & indeed more minutely and particularly, because of the uncertainty and at present lowness of our most despicable commodity; which we assure ourselves your Honour in our behalfs will favourably recommend to his Excellency. Sir, Capt. Brent has got judgment for Mr. Storke and Mrs. Meese against the Executors in trust of Mr. Ashton for their respective debts to expect payment in money I believe will not be performed, but if in Tob^o I have taken care to make it ready by lodging so much in Capt. Brent's hands which is always ready when your Honour in their behalfs shall require the same, if this year be shipped the Executors will come in & consequently our trust ceases it will be of them altogether as difficult to get money and perhaps difficult to get Tob^o. I submit all to your Honour's Judgment and subscribe myself

Sir Your Wff.

To the Hon^{ble} Nicholas Spencer &c.

May 10th, 1688.

Mr. John Cooper:

I received your several fair and kind letters this year

wherein you candidly give me an account of the lowness of Tob° & the probability of its continuance upon which fair advice I desisted from my intentions and indeed Inclinations & of shipping off and consigning to you 300 or 400 hhd^s. However since the market would not give me encouragement for that correspondence this year I shall not fail (according to your notions and my own desires) of a continued and friendly conversation by letters and hope the same from you and if there should be war as it is rumoured with us here I desire you to take me freight for 20 hhd^s certain 30 uncertain for if war's, freight will be difficult to be obtained here & Tob° will be a worse commodity here than it is now, though it is now at the lowest as ever I knew it, Crops hardly furnishing the Servants with cloaths and working tools that make it. Sir I allow of your Act & thank your kindness in supplying my mother with £5 in her present exigence which she herself gave me an account of. Here inclosed I have sent you three bills of Exchange, one of Capt. Norrington's & Mr. Vincent Goddard's upon Mr. Richard Park's of London for £229 sterling one other of Mr. Jno. Buckner's upon Alderman Jefferies for £4 and one other of William Smiths for £5. 13 upon Perry & Lane all which I would have you receive & keep for my use till my farther order that of Norrington's & Goddard's is the poor produce of almost 200 hhd^s Tob° which I consider although very low was something and if shipp'd of might have been lower or perhaps brought me in debt. S^r If my Mother be living and you see her yourself which I much doubt because I have neither heard from herself nor by any other hand since the first Ships, pay her £10 sterling upon my accot and make no other payments except by my particular order nor this except you deliver it to her yourself. I desire you also to pay to Mr. Nich^s Hayward Notary Publick, upon my accot £80 sterling if he comes to demand the same my next will give you the reason of my ordering him that together with full directions, for the disposing of that and the remainder in your hands or the greatest part thereof.

I desire you next year to be full and timely in your advice. Mr. Newton has I suppose this year taken care to Satisfie you for your former trouble in his business and made you some small consignments. The above is copy of my former I refer still to

the next for more full orders and directions only now send you Duplicate of the above both which I am sure you will take care of for

Your Wff.

To Mr. John Cooper }
Merch^t in London. }

May 10th, 1688.

Mr. Nich^s Hayward:

Sir, I am in too much haste now to give you a particular answer to your severall most endearing letters which by my next I shall endeavour to do. I hurry this away in haste together with one to Mr. Cooper to whom I sent bills of Exchange for £238, 17 sterling which in case of Mortality, &c., I desire you to take into your custody for my use. I have also ordered him to pay you £80 sterling upon my account if he demand the same, part thereof, which trouble I give for these two reasons one that upon accident or casualties, which all men are subject to being my Agent & thereupon the spot may serve me, the other is one of the bills of Exchange being for £229 sterling is drawn here by two persons (the copy of which bill together with copy of Judgment I have also sent you) Mr. Vincent Goddard and Capt. Wm. Norrington, Capt. Norrington will be in England, Goddard here; if the money should not be answered, I believe it would be a safe course to prosecute Norrington there, which perhaps Mr. Cooper might not be so forward in because their interest and intimacy as I am informed is great & being also his chief principall owner for if it should happen to be protested, of which I hope I have no cause to doubt by that method against Norrington, the business here will be facilitated and eased if Goddard who is here should be insolvent. By my next also do intend to send you an Originall bill with like endorsement as to Cooper in this by which means if the money be paid you have no more to do but burn it, if it be not paid but protested you will be better enabled to see it prosecuted effectually, if it be not paid nor protested you will then bee strengthened to proceed in such a method which in your Judgment shall seem best for my security. Sir, By my next I shall be more full and take care both to give you and Mr. Cooper an account how I would have the

money disposed of. I have it now in my intentions, for all or three fourths at least to be laid out in plate but yet have not fully resolved nor time to particularize.

Sir I must beg your pardon for this last, which will admit me now to add no further but an assurance you shall always readily find me.

Pray if Mr. Darrell become to you yet, Remember me kindly to him and if a callash would not cost above £ six or seven pounds I mean an ordinary one but strong and well geared that may be drawn with one horse and Mr. Darrell could bring it in freight free I could be very well contented provided my money be paid, to be at the charge of one and I am sure Mr. Darrell would not refuse the care and trouble all which concurring I desire to have one brought.

Wff.

To Mr. Nicholas Hayward, &c.

May 18, 1688.

Mr. Nich^s Hayward:

Sir, The above is copy of my former, who by this have sent you the Originall bill endorsed according to my promise in my former and for those reasons there mentioned also for the callash if it cost no more than is there mentioned I would have it sent, though it could not be brought freight free provided it be delivered directly at my Landing. As in my former I referred to my next so in this I must do the Same, this being only the produce of a sudden opportunity for Duplication of the former, &c. I shall in the next be largely thankfull and thankfully large to which I refer. I am secure in Maryland.

Wff.

To Mr. Nich^s Hayward, &c.

June 1st, 1688.

Dear Mother:

Having received but two letters from you last year and both of these in one ship, & in both of them the unwelcome news of your indisposition and weakness with your own doubts of your continuance in the land of the living which makes me mournfully

doubt the worst but yet hoping that God in his Mercy has by this time restored you to your former health I take this opportunity to assure you that my wife, Sister and all our family are in good health and with the continuance of the same to you, I have also ordered Mr. Cooper to pay you £10 sterling which please kindly accept from

Wff.

June 1st, 1688.

Dearest Brother:

I longingly expected every day this last Winter especially by every ship the welcome receipt of a letter from you, wherein I might from yourself have the joyfull satisfaction of your good health, I must confess I never doubted your continued and constant love and affection, neither do I still, notwithstanding this omission which I was afraid was occasioned by indisposition till Mr. Hayward gave me the welcome assurance of the contrary. I please myself with the hopes of early receiving a line from you this next year to make satisfaction for this year's failure which will most joyfully welcome to Dear Brother

Your Wff.

To Capt. Henry Fitzhugh, &c.

June 1st, 1688.

Mr. John Cooper:

Sir, I was so full in two last by Capt. Bowman and Capt. Conway that now I shall have little to say only to give orders about the disposal of the money sent home to you, which I would have all laid out in plate by you and Mr. Hayward, because I have ordered him part of the money which by a particular letter directed to both here inclosed I shall give full Instructions in and therefore have no more to say than to assure you I am

Your Wff.

To Mr. John Cooper.

June 1st, 1688.

Mr. John Cooper & Mr. Nich^s Hayward:

In particular letters to you both I ordered you money and

in my last particular letter I acquainted you that I would have what I had not there expressly dispos'd of laid out for my use in plate, after having paid your selves the full balance of your acc'ts the plate that I would have bought pray let it be plain and strong being in these particulars following, if my money will reach to it, but rather leave some out than bring me a penny in Debt. One dozen Silver hafted Knives. 1 doz. silver forks. One dozen silver spoons large and strong. 1 set castors. One 3 quart tankard. A pair silver candlesticks less than them sent last year by Mr. Hayward but more substantial. One silver salvator plate. Four silver porringers 2 indifferent, 2 small ones. A small silver bason. 1 doz. silver plates. Four silver dishes 2 pretty large for a good joint of meat and two of a smaller sort; if my money falls short let it be wanting in the Dishes; if there be any remaining at the Overplus be what it will laid out in silver plates & let it all be thus marked WFS and that coat of arms put upon all pieces that are proper, especially the Dishes plates and tankards &c. that I have sent inclosed and blazoned in a letter to Mr. Hayward. Pray let it be sent by the first conveniency and by bill Loading delivered at my Landing.

Gentlemen Your Wff.

To Mr. Nich^s Hayward
& Mr. John Cooper.

June 1st, 1688.

Mr. Nicholas Hayward:

I have now before me your severall most obliging letters & continued offers of favour and friendship, more especially those by your Cousin Foote* and Capt. Madge wherein you give me

*This "cousin," or nephew, Richard Foote, as George Fitzhugh, writing in *De Bow's Review*, states him to be, came to Virginia as an agent for Nicholas Hayward, and settled in that part of Stafford which is now Prince William county. One of his descendants, Richard Foote, was a justice of Stafford in 1745. A Richard Foote, of Prince William, possibly the same, married Margaret — (who married, secondly, John Thornton Fitzhugh), and died in 1778, leaving two sons, Richard and William Hayward, both very young at the time of their father's death. Another descendant, Richard Foote, married Jane, daughter of

the whole particulars of your unweary'd endeavour in negotiating my affairs about Ashton's purchase and former Exchange as also the Return of my money in the plate sent for for all which I sincerely and heartily thank you and do really wish for occasions to demonstrate my gratitude as well as barely to acknowledge the obligations. Your Cousin Mr. Foote since his arrival has not given me the honour of his good company nor the happiness of any the least of his Commands nor indeed the least knowledge of his sentiments or intentions whereby I might have the minutest opportunity of serving or advising him which his near relation to you not only oblige but commands and when ever required or in the least but intimated shall be gladly receiv'd and readily obeyed. As to the building a small house for the settlement of a Plantation backward upon your neighbouring tract I shall be always ready to assist Mr. Hayward as also in preparing for and planting an Orchard upon either or both and do intend upon your first advice this year of the continuance of your Intentions for that Settlement, to give you the building of such a house though in my apprehensions cannot see the present profit nor future advantage of such an undertaking, the Tract being two small for so many Scituations in the methods our country now stands unless the Design were for a Quarter to settle hands upon for the larger support of River Side plantation. I cannot understand by your brother that there is any Defect in your Purchase and consequently no need of farther advice for the firmer settlement out thereof. If ever I perceive the least Defect in that kind shall immediately undergo my best services and utmost endeavours to the closing such a breach.

I thank your kindness in Mr. Durand's book, and must agree with you as well as I can understand it, that its a most weak unpolite piece, having neither the Rules of History nor method of description & taking it only as a private Gentleman's Journal, 'tis as barren and defective there too; when I come out in print

Rev. William Stuart, of King George county, and was ancestor of U. S. Senator Henry Stuart Foote. A Richard Foote married, after 1816, Lucy, widow of William Thornton Alexander. Richard H. Foote was appointed a justice of Fauquier in 1801, and married Frances, daughter of George W. Grayson, of that county. In the Stafford records, March, 1758, is a deposition of Richard Foote, gentleman, aged fifty-four years.

do intend to appear more regular and therefore as yet am not provided for such an undertaking. S^r I am glad to hear by you of my Brother's health which I would favourably think indisposition or multiplicity of business has hinder'd him from acquainting me with for I find by yours that large glassing does not take up so much of his time now. I have sent by Capt. Sutton directed to you a skin which is esteemed a *Lions* with us here, killed upon your Town Tract which I would desire you to present in my behalf to him. I have in my two former given you an account of money sent to Mr. Cooper with relation to yourself in taking part and assistance in laying out the same which now upon second thought I wholly design for an additional supply (except £5 I have charged payable to Brother Smith which according to the tenour thereof at sight I desire you to pay and 10 £ I have ordered Mr. Cooper to pay & the Callash if you purchase it w^h the freight thereof) for now my building finished, my plantations well settled and largely stocked with Slaves, having added about five more than when I gave you an account thereof and purchased at least three plantations more than is there mentioned and being sufficiently stored with goods of all sorts I esteem it as well politic as reputable to furnish myself with an handsome cupboard of plate which gives myself the present use and credit is a sure friend at a dead lift without much loss or is a certain portion for a child after my decease and therefore last year I had a small quantity from you and about a like quantity from Bristol & did expect some from Plymouth but that miscarry'd.

By thus discovering my thoughts and intentions to you, you may perceive that what plate I design to have purchased would be strong and plain as being less subject to bruise, more serviceable and less out for the fashions which I assure my self you will supply me with, as what you sent me last year was except in the candlesticks. Brother and Sister Smith gives you their humble services and please to accept of the Same from S^r. The Inclosed is Impression of my seal and coat of arms, the Seal is lost therefore I request your favour to supply use with another steel one.

Your Wff.

To Mr. Nicholas Hayward &c.

June 8th, 1688.

Mr. Nicholas Hayward:

Sir, The above is copy of my former the inclosed speaks its own business and is only Duplicate of what I sent to Mr. Cooper in my former. Suppose this together with my severall former letters will afford you the reason of my joining you in the trouble with Mr. Cooper & now have only to beg your pardon for all the troubles given you. In my last I sent you the Impression of my lost seal desiring you to get me one more cut, having no more of those Impressions by me and that but by accident. I have in this sent you the Coat blazoned wth I desired you to get fair cut in Steel and for fear of loss again I believe it would not be much amiss to send me another large one upon an Ivory Stand it is thus blazoned, viz: A field azure three chevronels traced in the base of es cushion & a chief or.

Your Wff.

To Mr. Nicholas Hayward.

April 1st, 1689.

Mr. Nich^s Hayward:

I have received your severall particular and kind letters this year and congratulate your new acquisition of part of Mr. Ashton's back tract though I cannot agree with you according to the Platt that it lyes so very contiguous to you and remote from me—but this can assure you that it is a bargain really worth your money, if it be as cheap as Mr. Darrell represents it. I also thank your kindness in sending me so much of my Plate sent for, nay more than I could have expected singly from yourself without the mortality or resignation of Mr. Cooper, which is safely come into the country and has been this month, but is not yet arrived at my house neither the letters—above four days since; what the reason is that Mr. Cooper did not join with you in buying the whole as far as my money reached nor lay out the money in his hands for the remainder according to my directions, I cant imagine without the closeness of his nature made my designs seem extravagant in which point I have sufficiently writ to him & with all signify'd to him that he is my Factor not my

Adviser because to him I pay commission. Now Sir to you to whom I pay no commission and by that means under no obligation further than your generous and free nature obliges I must beg excuse that I want expressions throughly to acknowledge my gratitude. Sir, The inclosed is copy of my Proposals to Mr. Secretary which he gives me assurance will take with my Lord Culpepper therefore beg your favour to negotiate in my behalf with his Lordship, and to get a confirmation in England though the drawing deeds, consulting counsel and inrolment in chancery cost twelve or fifteen guineas. Your own purchase of Brenton with the Rent charge thereof gives you the manner and method.

Your late acquisition assures me of your ability's, and your continued kindness emboldens me to request this as also another that you would please to make a piece of plate of ten guineas price from me acceptable to your Lady by your kind representation thereof, for your consummation of the same. Perhaps my Lord Culpepper may object that the quantity of land, mentioned within those Bounds (which I have also sent you inclosed to perfect the business there if it be possible) may be more, but the Rent roll which Mr. Secretary has diligently searched makes that fully appear, also that the Purchase is too low for so great a quantity of Land considering that you gave as much or rather more ratably, for your tract of 30000 Acres, which lyes remote; to that it is easily answered your's is a new acquisition & consequently lyable to the Rents in specie, as my Lord put it, but this whole Purchase that I make is of Land taken up before the Originall Grant to the first Proprietors of this Northern Neck and there fore stands under the conditions upon the first settlement of the Country & not my Lord's condition now to be made upon new Purchases and consequently neither by his Lordship himself or any other, to be inhanced or advanced without a generall Disturbance to the People: Also what's now to be taken up it lyes in his Lordship's power to put what terms upon the Rent and in what specie he pleases, therefore 1000 acres of Land, taken up since my Lord's acquirement, is more worth for annual advantage or immediate sale of a Rent charge than 5000 Acres antiently taken up and all that I propose to purchase within the bounds mentioned has been considerable time taken up before

his Lordship's Right. And this I dare affirm that if his Lordship was to be Governor himself he would not be able w^h the greatest Industry assisted by power to clear from my intended Purchase £20 ster a year & if he wants that power his utmost endeavour will never bring it to above half that sum, for all the Tennants upon the whole Tract three excepted are not able to pay their Rent in money being poor needy men and then the refuge must be by Distress & nothing will be found to Distrain but cows & horses and those to be valued by those that look upon themselves to be under the same mischief and from thence the Valuaⁿ may be judged. I must assure you S^r that if I make this Purchase, I have not the expectation of receiving one penny in money for Rent but being placed in the middle of the Purchase & Tob^o my method of Dealing, Tob^o will answer my ends and suit my conveniency and perhaps in time reimburse me and my Posterity for the money laid out. Thus S^r I have given you some reasons of my Proposal which when duely considered may be conducive to perswade his Lordship to sell, which if I would not have you stick upon ten or twenty pounds extra ordinary in the Purchase, therefore in generall terms shall desire you to act in this affair for me as for your self & whatever you do shall be thankfully acknowledged. Mr. Cooper intimated to me that the money in his hands was ready at your call which I desire you to take into your custody and I shall endeavour to send more by the latter ships & what my money falls short if the Purchase goes forward please to propose your own security for the payment thereof with Interest & I shall take effectual and satisfactory care to answer it; but if the Purchase should not go on, I still continue my resolutions of purchasing the same Pieces of plate & particularly the knives which I have already forks for when they come to hand, which I desire you'll please to purchase for me according to my last years direction with the addition of a Silver ladle and send it in by the first Ships. Capt. Brent who is now at my house has the same designs but waits the issue of this for the purchase of almost as great a quantity above Oquouquan and intends to propose it in partnership which will be a far more profitable Purchase, by reason little Land is already Pattented and what is, must come under your own conditions because Pattented since the Granting of this Northern Neck; himself best

knows what he does & the advantage thereby and therefore to his relation I refer. Sir What encouragement my poor Endeavours or Interest can give to your pleasing Establishment at Brenton and a sudden commotion we have had (under the pretended expectation of Indians in which Capt. Brent has given you a full just and clear relation) gives me the present opportunity not only to assure the people but also to satisfie the Government that were full encouragement given & Immunity granted to that Town which might be conducive to draw Inhabitants thither, the county would be indifferent secure from future alarms and it would be a sure Bulwark against reall dangers, because either by them or within them must be the Indian Road; a good company of Men there settled would be immediately called, either to keep off the Enemy at his first approach or cut him short in his Return.

S^r This sudden turn of times in England may perhaps at present give a check to the Increment of Brenton from your French expectation but I believe may be additionally supply'd by those methods. Capt. Brent intimates though not plainly expresses, by being a Refuge and Sanctuary for Roman Catholicks and I dare say let it be increased by whom it will, our government will give it all the Indulgences that can be reasonably required by reason of its convenient Scituation for a Watch and Defence agst Indian Depredations and Excursions; neither do I believe that perswasion will be hindered from settling any where in this country, especially there where being Christians they may secure us against the Heathen. I hope to have another opportunity to write to you again this year, therefore have now only to beg your pardon for this and all former troubles with this assurance you shall always find me thankfully acknowledge myself. S^r The inclosed is a bill of Exchange of Mr. Warner's upon Mrs. Thornbush which I desire you to receive for £5.

Wff.

To Mr. Nicholas Hayward &c.